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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6325

March 11, 2022

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General
Government Accountability Office
441 G St., NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro:

We write to ask you to prioritize and expedite the release of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) legal opinion on how *Help America Vote Act* (HAVA) funds can be used to ensure the security of election officials.

Election officials and election workers across the United States are facing a barrage of threats and abusive conduct. This problem is widespread, as was evident in the hearing we held in the Rules Committee last October on emerging threats to elections during which officials from both parties and from states across the country testified about the harassment and threats that they have been subjected to in recent years.

Last November we sent a letter to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) regarding threats against election officials and election workers. In response, the EAC indicated that it had submitted to your office a request for a legal opinion on whether funds provided to states under Section 101 of HAVA may be used for personal physical security services for election officials and social media threat monitoring. We and members of our Committee have heard from election officials who have expressed a need for increased resources and clarity on this issue.

With the 2022 election cycle underway, your legal opinion on the permissible use of HAVA funds will provide election officials with critical guidance as they work to ensure the elections are conducted safely and effectively. We urge you to release this legal opinion as soon as possible and we respectfully request a status update as to when you expect to release this legal opinion.

We look forward to your response on this important matter.

Sincerely,


Amy Klobuchar
Chairwoman


Roy Blunt
Ranking Member